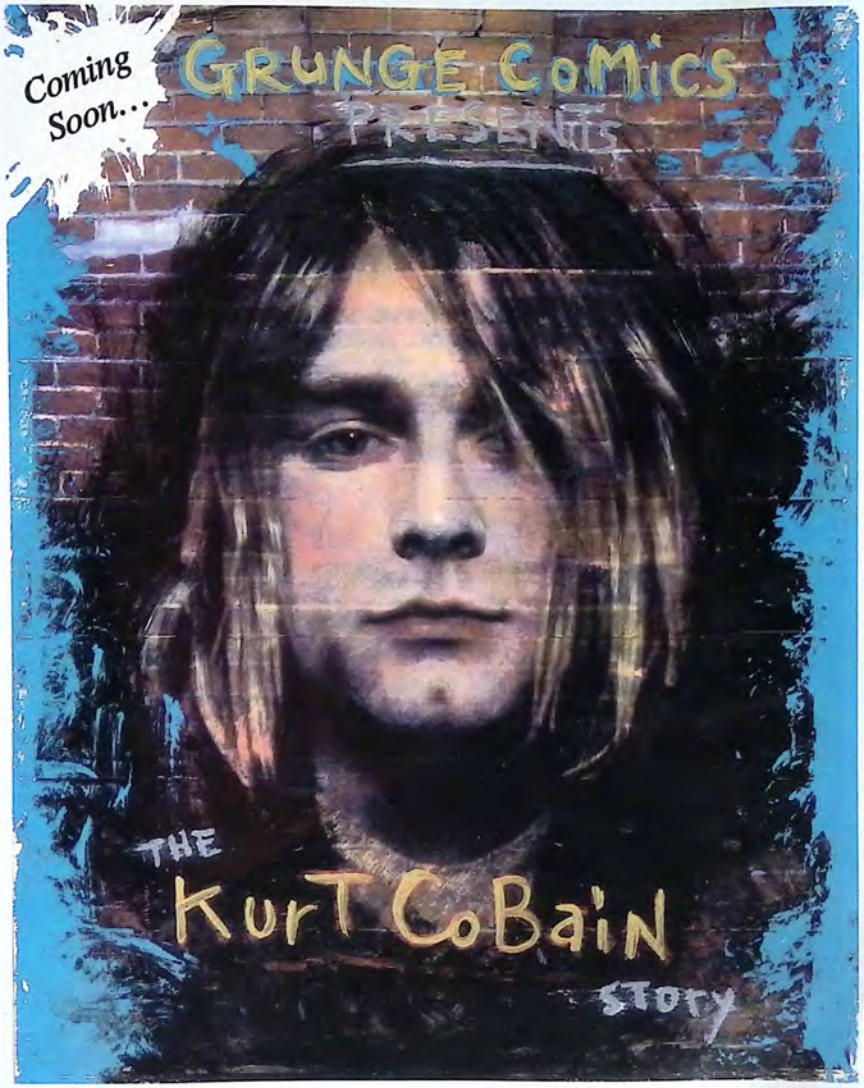
#5

HE SAID/SHE SAID COMICS PRESENTS

THE OJ SIMPSON STORY

THE CASE FOR THE DEFENSE



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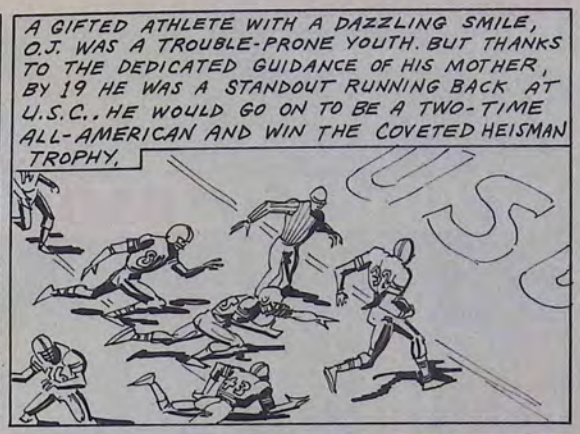
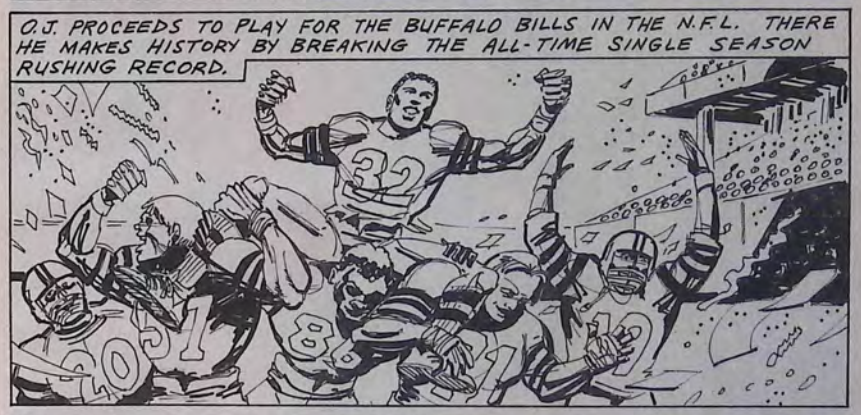
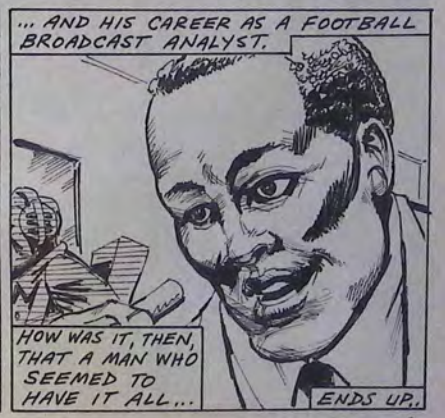


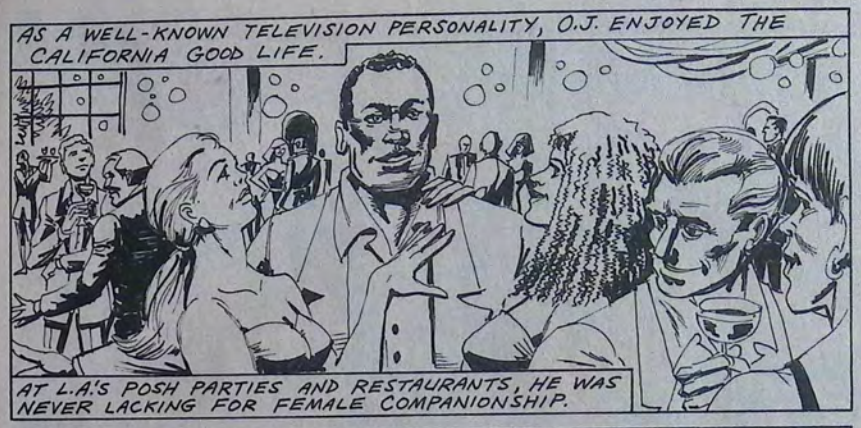




accused of murder?

THE OJ SIMPSON STORY

Cover Art: Mike Apice
Interior Art:
OJ Side - Mike Scorzelli
Nicole Side - Roberto Andujar
Interior Paintings:
OJ Side - Mike Apice
Nicole Side - Bruce Schultz
Writer: Mr. Arthur Meehan



THEIR EARLY YEARS ARE HAPPY ONES, YET, LIKE ANY COUPLE, THEY HAVE THEIR PROBLEMS.
NATIONAL ENQUIRER
OJ AND WIFE IN NEW YEAR'S BRAWL
NEW YORK POST
OJ BUSTED
NATIONAL STAR
OJ ARRESTED
LA TIMES
OJ AND THE LAW
AFTER ONE PARTICULARLY NASTY FIGHT, THE COUPLE MAKES THE TABLOIDS, AND O.J. IS ARRESTED.

O.J. WILL LATER MAKE THE ROUND OF TV TALK SHOWS TO EXPLAIN THAT THEY JUST "HAD A FIGHT -- A MUTUAL WRESTLING TYPE THING. WE'D BOTH BEEN DRINKING..."
I PLEADED NO CONTEST ONLY TO KEEP MY PRIVACY... HAVEN'T YOU EVER HAD A FIGHT WITH YOUR WIFE?
NONETHELESS, THE COUPLE DISCOVERS THEY'RE INCOMPATIBLE, AND DIVORCES IN 1992.

AFTER THE DIVORCE, O.J. ATTEMPTS TO GO ON WITH HIS LIFE. HE SEES A NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE WOMEN -- AMONG THEM THE MODEL PAULA BARBIERI.
VIVIANO'S

BUT, DESPITE THE DIVORCE, THE COUPLE IS STILL SEEING MUCH OF EACH OTHER DURING 1994. FRIENDS OF O.J. SAY HE WAS SPEAKING OFTEN OF A RECONCILIATION; ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 12TH, THEY ATTEND THEIR 9-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER'S DANCE RECITAL TOGETHER.

AFTER THE RECITAL, NICOLE AND THE KIDS GO OUT TO EAT, WHILE O.J. GOES HOME TO PACK. HE LATER TAKES A RED-EYE FLIGHT TO CHICAGO IN ORDER TO ATTEND A HERTZ-SPONSORED GOLF TOURNAMENT THE NEXT DAY.

ON THE PLANE, O.J. MEETS HOWARD BINGHAM, A SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER AND FRIEND. BINGHAM LATER RECALLS: "HE SURE WASN'T BLEEDING WHEN I SAW HIM. HE WAS JUST THE SAME OLD O.J."

IN CHICAGO, A TIRED AND JET-LAGGED O.J. CHECKS IN AT THE O'HARE PLAZA HOTEL.

FORTY-FIVE MINUTES LATER, O.J. RECEIVES WORD OF HIS WIFE'S DEATH.
IN SHOCK, HE DROPS A GLASS HE'S HOLDING AND CUTS HIS HAND ON THE FRAGMENTS.

FROM HIS HOTEL, O.J. RUSHES RIGHT TO THE AIRPORT TERMINAL, WHERE HE FRANTICALLY PLEADS TO BOARD THE NEXT FLIGHT TO L.A.
GET ME ON THE NEXT FLIGHT!
RLINES
DEPARTURES

ARRIVING HOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, O.J. IS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY POLICE. HIS LAWYER TELLS HIM NOT TO COOPERATE, BUT HE SAYS HE "HAS NOTHING TO HIDE". AFTER 2 HOURS OF QUESTIONING, THE POLICE RELEASE HIM.
O.J. FINDS HIMSELF A SUSPECT. HE IS UNDER CONSTANT MEDIA SCRUTINY, AND IS MEDICATED FOR DEPRESSION. EVEN HIS LAWYER RESIGNS. AS O.J. BRAVELY ATTENDS HIS WIFE'S FUNERAL, IT SEEMS HIS ONLY ALLY IN THE WORLD IS...

...AL COWLINGS.
COWLINGS' FRIENDSHIP WITH O.J. BEGAN IN THE SAN FRANCISCO PROJECTS...

THEY ATTENDED COLLEGE TOGETHER, PLAYED PRO FOOTBALL TOGETHER -- EVEN RETIRED TOGETHER.
IT IS WITH COWLINGS THAT O.J. IS STAYING WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE TO ARREST HIM ON FRIDAY, JUNE 17TH, BUT O.J AND COWLINGS ARE GONE.

NOW SUICIDAL – AND MISSING – O.J. HAS LEFT BEHIND A NOTE TO BE READ TO THE PRESS AND POLICE.
"FIRST, EVERYONE, UNDERSTAND, I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH NICOLE'S MURDER..."
"I LOVED HER. ALWAYS HAVE – ALWAYS WILL – UNLIKE WHAT HAS BEEN WRITTEN IN THE PRESS."
"I KNOW THE PRESS HAS A JOB TO DO, BUT PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE LEAVE MY CHILDREN ALONE. THEIR LIVES WILL BE TOUGH ENOUGH..."

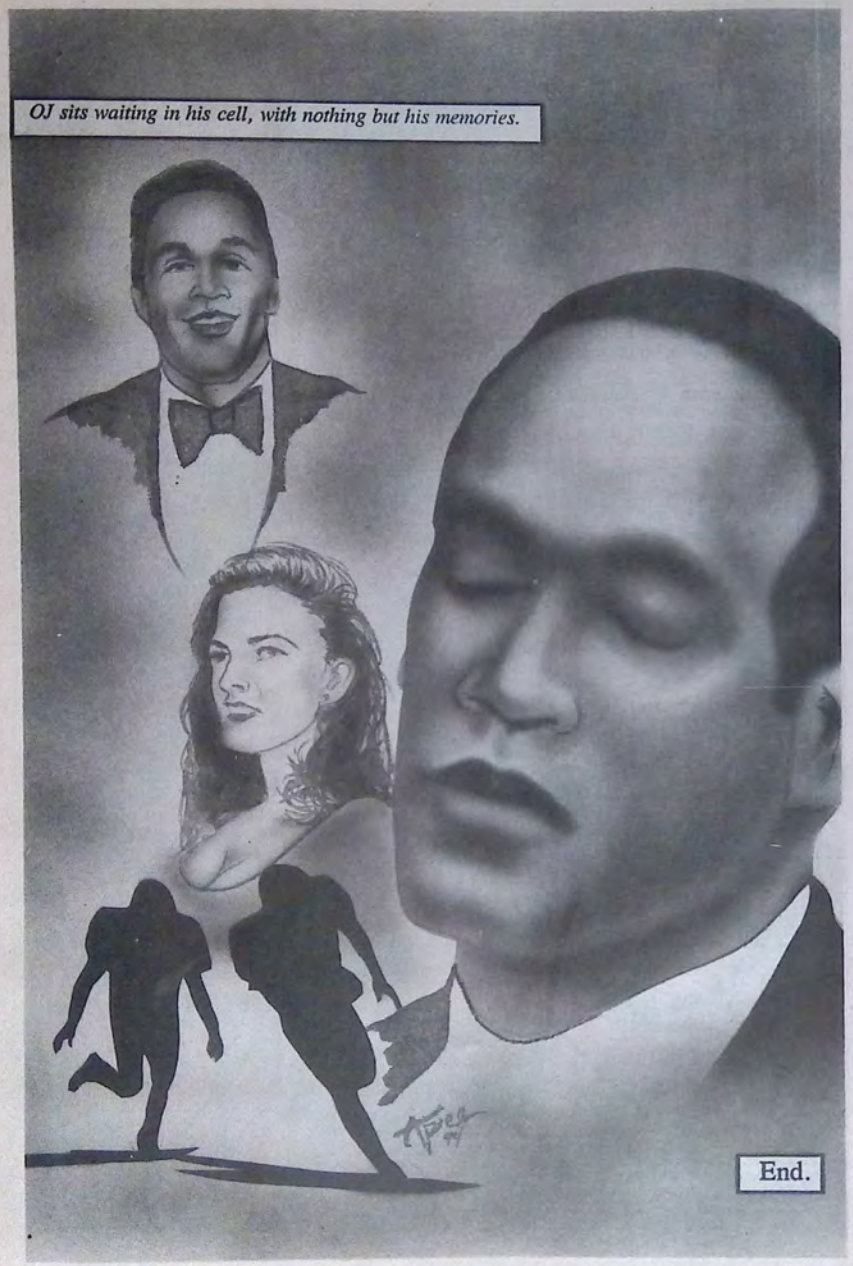
SPOTTED LATER THAT DAY WITH A GUN TO HIS HEAD, O.J. AND COWLINGS LEAD POLICE ON A DESPERATE, LOW-SPEED CHASE ALONG THE L.A. FREEWAY...
RETURNING TO O.J.'S HOME, WHERE HE FINALLY GIVES UP.

NOW OFFICIALLY ARRESTED, O.J. GETS A NEW LAWYER – ROBERT SHAPIRO.
SHAPIRO, A PROMINENT CALIFORNIA DEFENSE LAWYER, HAS NUMBERED AMONG HIS PREVIOUS CLIENTS SUCH CELEBRITIES AS JOHNNY CARSON, MICHAEL JACKSON, JOSE CANSECO, DARRYL STRAWBERRY AND CHRISTIAN BRANDO.

SHAPIRO'S FIRST CONCERN IS TO GET O.J. THROUGH HIS PLEA OF "NOT GUILTY".
BY DEMANDING TO SEE ALL THE EVIDENCE, HE NEXT GETS THE PROSECUTION TO ADMIT THAT A KEY CLUE, A BLOODY SKI MASK, DOES NOT EXIST, UNLIKE WHAT HAS BEEN WIDELY REPORTED.

SHAPIRO THEN PETITIONS THE JUDGE TO ALLOW HIM TO QUESTION ALL THE GRAND JURY MEMBERS, AS HE FEARS THEY MAY HAVE BEEN PREJUDICED BY THE MEDIA FRENZY.
NEWSWEEK
LA TIMES
OJ GUILTY?
YORK POST
ALIBI
NATIONAL STAR
SUICIDE WATCH

THEN, ON JUNE 24TH, THE JUDGE STUNS EVERYONE BY GOING FURTHER – HE DISMISSES THE ENTIRE JURY, SAYING THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAINTED.
INSTEAD OF A GRAND JURY INDICTMENT OF O.J., (NECESSARY FOR A TRIAL), THE JUDGE NOW ORDERS A PRE-TRIAL HEARING TO BEGIN A WEEK LATER.
AND IN THE MEANTIME...



CELEBRITIES REACT!

Alex Karras -- "He didn't have my brilliance for serious drama, but he was a fine comedic performer."

Al Cowlings -- "Let's see: He went to USC, so I went to USC...He played for the Bills, so I played for the Bills...He bought a white Bronco, so I bought a white Bronco...Gee, it's a good thing I'm not married."

Bob Costas -- "A great athlete and a great person. But enough about me..."

Howard Cosell -- "I remember when the Juice first hit the NFL.The electricity. The excitement...Now someone change my diaper."

Don Meredith -- "Turn out the lights, the party's over..."

Frank Gifford -- "Gee, you think anyone could get away with that...?"

Geraldo Rivera -- "I think it's terrible the way the media has exploited this whole situation. Now leave me alone, I'm boxing Al Cowlings in an hour."

Rosey Grier -- "I don't know what makes me sadder: the day they arrested OJ or the day they separated me from Ray Milland."

Claus Von Bulow -- "Tsk tsk -- no ingenuity."

Tom Brokaw -- "It's an American tragedy on a par with the recent pairing of Peter Jennings and Barbara Streisand."

Janet Reno -- "I knew it would come to this...I warned you about that Bart Simpson!"

William Kunstler -- "He's obviously suffering from white-wife rage."

Thurman Thomas -- "Talk about the Buffalo curse."

Evander Holyfield -- "Even *I* can't believe the size of his head."

Kathy Ireland -- "I can't believe that nice BJ Thomas would do such a thing (by the way, what time is Blossom on tonight?)."

Richard Simmons -- "What a shame about that sweet Ronnie Goldman. Uh, has anyone claimed the body yet?"

Madonna -- "What, now you have to kill someone to get the headlines?! Where's Sandra?!"

Roseanne Arnold -- "Listen, nothing surprises me. My hypnotist just told me I was molested as a child by Zeppo Marx."

Heidi Fleiss -- "This is the sort of thing that could give L.A. a bad name."

Chris Berman -- "He! May! Be! Put! A! Way!"

OP-ED PAGE

Guest Editorials on The Current Issue

Where Most See Tragedy, Some See Opportunity

The latest scandal-of-the-month, the OJ Simpson incident, is a sadly typical example of the media's willingness to use someone's misfortune to advance its own agenda.

Putting aside for the moment the still-open question of Mr. Simpson's guilt, there remain certain facts which call attention to themselves. For instance:

1. The media has become such a player in this entire affair that it has now begun to directly effect the event itself. Due to the media campaign being waged on all fronts, the judge was forced to throw out the grand jury, thus delaying the legal process and causing Mr. Simpson further psychological stress. Furthermore, due to irresponsible reporting, Simpson has already been convicted in the court of public opinion, even though we now know that much of the key evidence against him does not even exist. Since when does the media make the news rather than break it? And where is the public outcry over this transgression? You won't see it on television, that's for sure.

2. In a windy spasm of self-righteousness, the print and broadcast media have decided to make OJ Simpson the poster boy for domestic violence. While I agree that spousal abuse is a terrible, terrible crime and is an issue which needs to be addressed, it turns my stomach to watch anchormen who previously couldn't have cared less about this issue now staring earnestly into the camera and declaiming against it. Where were they all when 3 million battered American women were suffering? And who made these public "personalities" the barometers of American morality? Frankly put -- Where were you when we needed you, guys? But of course, spousal battery wasn't good copy until a famous black athlete, i.e., OJ Simpson, got accused.

It certainly seems clear that, in this latest instance of the media's free speech right clashing with the American legal process, the integrity of the legal system is again coming out the loser. It's no surprise; in this country, if you want to find the winners, look for the money. What we desperately need now is for Congress to address this sort of media opportunism with enforceable laws, not only for the sake of public spectacles like the Simpson case, but for the sake of you and me -- ordinary citizens who want to live in a country where we can expect to receive a fair share of unimpeded justice. Otherwise, we've all become just a nation of potential Oprah guests.

Janet Gracie
Chairperson, Citizens for Legal Action

Poor, Poor OJ

What is this country coming to? First Bill (Hillary) Clinton is voted in to be President. Then Colin Ferguson murders six defenseless people on the Long Island Railroad and William (Bleeding Heart Liberal) Kunstler says it was "black rage" that drove him to it. Now OJ brutally and savagely murders his wife and her acquaintance Ronald Goldman by nearly decapitating his wife and stabbing Goldman numerous times with a 15-inch knife. Yet people who I believe to be nothing but bleeding heart commie liberals living in a fantasy world find in their heart sympathy for poor, poor OJ. This man orphaned his two young children, yet people and friends say they still support poor, poor OJ. Never once have I heard these people offer any sympathy and support to the family and friends of the deceased.

Now, which unfortunately happens in too many cases, somehow poor, poor OJ will become the victim. I'm sure the media will talk about how poor, poor OJ had a tough childhood. That maybe his parents were abusive towards him. I'm also sure they will blame it on that biggest villain of all: "society."

Time will pass and they will talk about everything but the true facts of this heinous crime. Poor, poor OJ will be put in the same class as Senator Edward Kennedy and Robert Chambers, who did not get what they deserved in their murders, even though we know he belongs with the Mansons, Rifkins, and Fergusons of this world.

In the end, the facts will state that poor, poor OJ did commit this barbaric act and should get the death penalty. But unfortunately this won't happen because the bleeding heart liberals of this country won't let it. Sadly, two people's lives ended violently by a murderous, barbaric, cold-hearted man the liberals will now call poor, poor OJ.

Gregg Kane
New York City Police Officer, 25th Pct.

***First Amendment* thanks the following:**

1. Mike Apice
2. Mike Scorzelli
3. Tex Antoine
4. Bill Chadwick
5. Harry Fonzell
6. Mario Proccacino
7. Mr. Jackie Haran
8. Mr. Joseph Profetta
9. 1940-1994
10. Royce Gracie
11. Selwin
12. Buddy Rich
13. Eddie Lee Wilkins
14. The Bad Seagull
15. "Death"
16. Mel Renfro
17. Shep Messing
18. Newbaum Turk
19. Heather Weintraub
20. Bubbasis
21. Jimmy the Mack
22. Chris Ford
23. Dr. Dino
24. Richie at F&S
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Letters to the Editor

Dear First Amendment People,

I bought copies of your Amy Fisher and Woody Allen books that came shrunk-wrapped with sets of trading cards. Did you do trading card editions for any of the other books?

Eric, New York, NY

Dear Eric,

No. The editions you're referring to were extremely limited-run items that were primarily sold in the New York area. There were no trading card editions on any other books (although there was an edition of the Clinton/Flowers book signed by Gennifer herself, during a promotional appearance at the World Trade Center).

Thanks for writing.

Dear F.A.P.,

While I think the First Amendment is an important aspect of our American system, I feel that comics like yours are an abuse of that privilege.

Clive, Indianapolis, IN

Dear Clive,

The beauty and uniqueness of the First Amendment is that -- excepting limited instances -- there is no abusing that privilege. The First Amendment means that, even when speech is regarded as offensive or inflammatory, it is still protected by law. Of all the progressive aspects of the American system, it is the First Amendment that is truly the most inspired, the most historically unique, and the most significant to everyday life. It is truly the heart of American democracy.

So in light of all that, let us just add: Up yours.

Thanks for writing.

Guys,

While I've enjoyed the books you do (I thought Tonya was the best so far), and have been saving them as collectors items, I had to write and ask you one question: Where is the Bobbitt book?!!

Joe, Camden, NJ

Dear Joe,

Yeah, we know, we blew that one big time. At the time the Bobbitt story broke, the whole gang here was working on our NBA parody set of trading cards, Skinnies. As we will soon start work on Basketball and Baseball Skinnies for 1994-95, all we can say is: we're glad the OJ story broke in the off-season.

Thanks for writing.

Oh, The Irony...

True Facts about the OJ Simpson Case

1. OJ's lead attorney Robert Shapiro once represented co-counsel F. Lee Bailey when Bailey was picked up for drunk driving.
2. OJ sits on the Board of Directors of a knife and cutlery company.
3. OJ's cell is next to Lyle Menendez's cell.
4. The Judge scheduled to hear Simpson's case had her sister and brother-in-law murdered last year.
5. OJ claims to have seen the ghost of Nicole in his jail cell on June 27.
6. Ronald Goldman once denied having an affair with Nicole, stating, "If I did, OJ would kill me."
7. OJ receives 3,500 pieces of mail each day in his jail cell.
8. Until recently, the usually dapper OJ was not permitted to wear a tie because he was on suicide watch.
9. After surrendering to the police after the now famous car chase, OJ asked for a glass of orange juice.
10. OJ Simpson once counseled Denver Bronco Vance Johnson on wife abuse.

The Story So Far...

Sunday, June 12

6:00 p.m. -- OJ and Nicole leave the dance recital of daughter Sydney; OJ is reportedly annoyed at not officially being invited to the recital, nor out to eat afterward, by his wife.

6:30 p.m. -- Nicole and a party of more than six arrive at the Mezzaluna restaurant. OJ is not there. Ron Goldman is on duty as a waiter, but does not serve the party.

8:30 p.m. -- Nicole leaves Mezzaluna. Upon arriving home with her children, she calls the restaurant to report her missing glasses. Ron Goldman volunteers to return them to her.

9:45 p.m. -- Goldman leaves Mezzaluna for Nicole's.

10:00 p.m. (estimate) -- According to her father, Nicole and her mother speak on the phone. LA coroner reports the conversation as one hour later.

10:00 p.m. -- 11:00 p.m. -- Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman are murdered.

10:45 p.m. -- Limousine arrives at OJ's house to take him to LAX airport. Limo driver waits for OJ approximately 30 minutes until OJ finally enters the car, "sweaty and agitated."

11:45 p.m. -- OJ leaves LAX on flight for Chicago.

Monday, June 13

12:10 a.m. -- The bodies are discovered.

5:30 -- 7:30 a.m. (Chicago time) -- OJ arrives in Chicago, checks into his reserved room at the O'Hare Plaza Hotel.

7:30 a.m. (Chicago time) -- Simpson is notified by police of his ex-wife's murder. He checks out of the hotel.

9:30 a.m. (Chicago time) -- Chicago police search OJ's just-vacated hotel room, finding a broken glass and a bloody towel and sheet.

12:00 p.m. (LA time) -- Police take OJ Simpson into custody upon his arrival home. He agrees to be questioned by police. Police collect evidence from his home.

4:30 p.m. -- OJ is released from police custody.

Tuesday, June 14

Police impound OJ's white Bronco in search of evidence.

Wednesday, June 15

OJ's lawyer, Howard Weitzman, resigns, saying he is too busy and too close a personal friend of OJ's.

Thursday, June 16

OJ, together with children, attends the funeral of ex-wife Nicole. Later in the day, police will match OJ's blood type with blood type found at the scene.

Friday, June 17

8:30 a.m. -- Police notify OJ's new lawyer, Robert Shapiro, that they are ready to arrest Simpson. A grand jury is convened to begin indictment proceedings against OJ.

12:15 p.m. -- Police arrive at the house of Al Cowlings, OJ's friend, where OJ has been staying. They are ready to arrest him, but along with Cowlings and Cowlings' white Bronco, OJ is missing.

1:50 p.m. -- Police declare OJ a fugitive.

5:00 p.m. -- OJ's suicide note is read to the press.

6:00 p.m. -- Police get a tip that OJ is on an LA freeway, and before 94 million viewers, they give chase. OJ talks to them by cellular phone, holding a gun to his head and threatening to kill himself.

8:00 p.m. -- Trailed by police, the Bronco arrives at OJ's house.

8:45 p.m. -- OJ is persuaded to leave the car. He enters his house and is taken into police custody.

Monday, June 20

OJ Simpson is arraigned on charges of murder; he enters an official plea of not guilty.

Wednesday, June 22

The LA District Attorney's office releases tapes of a 911 distress call Nicole Simpson made during a menacing visit by OJ.

Thursday, June 23

OJ's lawyer Robert Shapiro petitions the judge during OJ's grand jury indictment deliberations to see all the evidence the prosecution claims to have. It is then learned that there is no bloody ski mask entered as evidence, as has been widely reported. Shapiro then requests to speak individually to the grand jury members, claiming they may be tainted by the excessive media coverage.

Friday, June 24

Judge Cecil J. Mills dismisses the members of OJ's grand jury, saying there exists the possibility that they have been prejudiced by the OJ media blitz. OJ hires esteemed lawyers F. Lee Bailey and Alan Dershowitz as part of his legal team.

Tuesday June 27

The admissibility of all evidence is discussed at the evidentiary hearing.

Thursday, June 29

The pre-trial hearing to determine if OJ Simpson will stand trial for murder begins.

Legal Guide

Standard Procedure in a California Murder Case

-- Defendant is arrested.

-- Defendant is then arraigned, where he pleads guilty or not guilty.

-- Then there is "discovery," where both sides exchange information and evidence about the case.

-- There is then either a Grand Jury indictment or a preliminary hearing on the evidence in California Municipal Court (here there was a preliminary hearing). This is to determine if there is enough evidence to validate his arrest and confinement and to proceed with his trial. The burden of proof here is on the prosecution, but they only have to show that there is a "strong suspicion" that the defendant is guilty.

-- Assuming the prosecution meets this burden, there will be a delay of probably 4-10 months before there is an actual trial in California Superior Court. This is when both sides will prepare their cases. The burden of proof in a criminal trial is "beyond a reasonable doubt."

Prosecution Evidence	Defense Answers
Blood found at scene matches OJ's blood type.	Defense will claim millions of others have the same blood type.
DNA of blood, hair, and skin found at scene matches OJ's.	Defense will try to refute this claim through a technical battle of the experts.
Glove found at scene matches glove found at OJ's home.	Tough one -- if it exists. Defense will probably try to deem it inadmissable.
Towel in OJ's hotel in Chicago was bloody.	Defense will claim Simpson cut his hand on a glass which he dropped.
Simpson can't substantiate his whereabouts at time of murders.	Defense will claim Simpson was home at the time waiting for a limo.
Simpson tried to escape after the murders.	Defense will claim Simpson was irrational because of his wife's murder.
Simpson was considering suicide because of being caught.	Defense will claim Simpson was distraught over his wife's death.
Simpson and his wife were on the outs at time of murders.	Defense will claim Simpson was in the process of reconciling with his wife.
There are no other suspects.	Defense will claim that police haven't investigated other suspects.
Simpson has a history of abusing Nicole.	Defense will claim Simpson and his wife had normal marital problems.

Two main aspects of *trial by law*, rather than *trial by media*:

1. The defendant is *innocent until proven guilty* beyond a reasonable doubt. This means that if any of the jury members have a legitimate belief that the defendant *may* not be guilty, the defendant must go free.

2. The evidence that is to be considered must meet strict and very technical guidelines before it is admitted. The overall rule is that the evidence must be more relevant than prejudicial. The evidence must have also been obtained through legal means. This means no evidence can be considered that was obtained through an illegal search.

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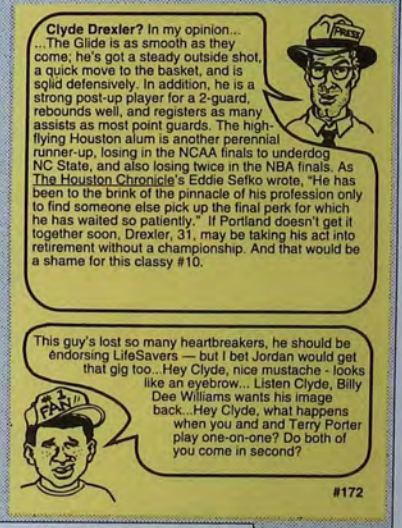

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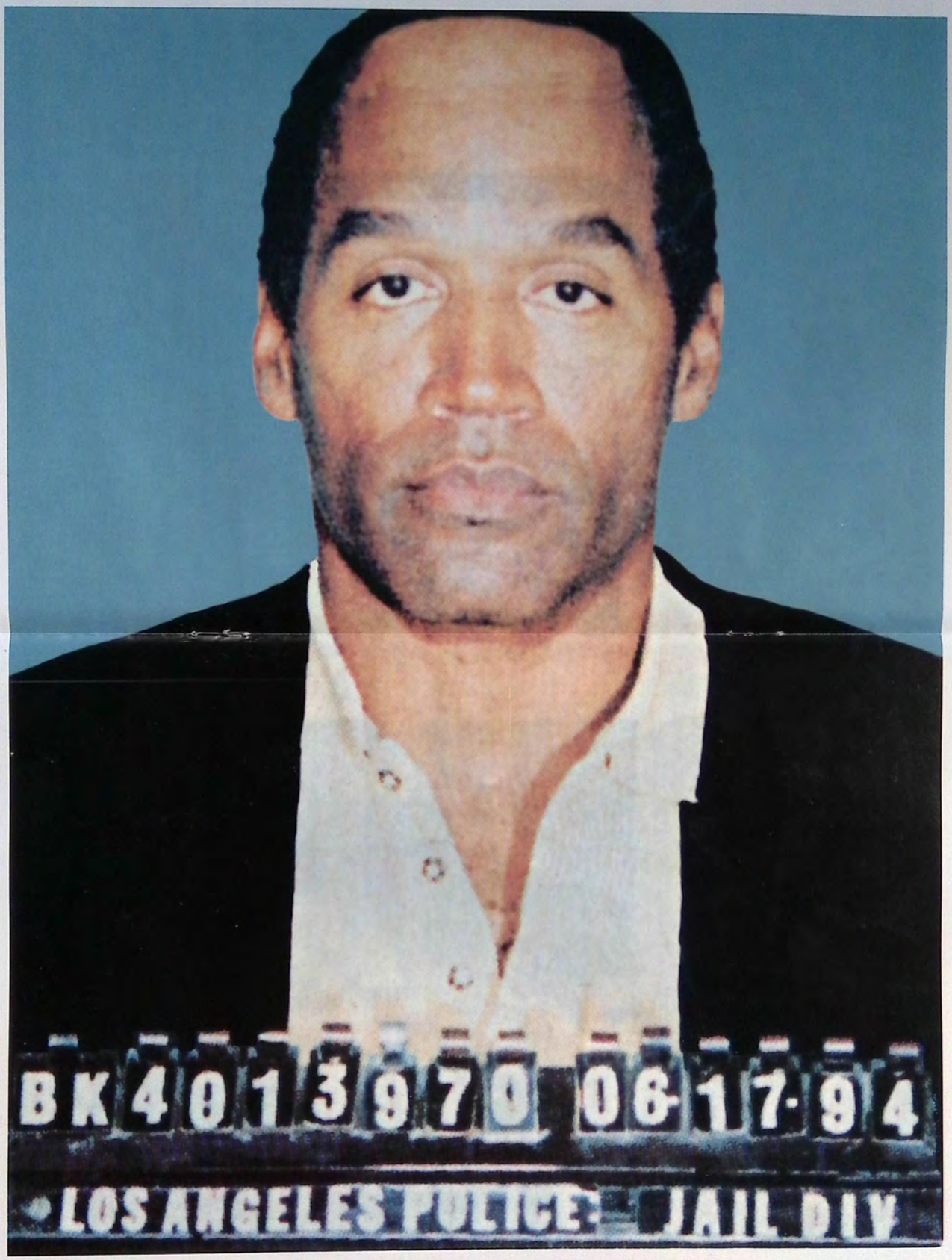
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